

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-14

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FROM AMBASSADOR SCALI

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AORG, AU, GE, GW, UN

SUBJ: UN ADMINISTRATION-TRANSLATION OF UN DOCUMENTS INTO
GERMAN

REF: A. USUN 2907; B. USUN 2864; C. STATE 178599

1. I AM APPALLED AT POSSIBILITY THAT USG MIGHT BE PREPARED TO
SUPPORT EVEN PARTIAL INTRODUCTION OF GERMAN LANGUAGE INTO UN.
OUR POSITION OF PRINCIPLE ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS SHOULD ITSELF
DICTATE A CONTRARY POSITION. FACT THAT FRG AND AUSTRIA ARE NOT
AMENABLE TO DEFRAYING ADDITIONAL COST OF UP TO \$600,000 ANNUALLY
REINFORCES MY OPINION.

2. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NO PREDICTABLE END TO LANGUAGE PROLI-
FERATION IF WE DO NOT DRAW THE LINE NOW. WE CAN EXPECT SPEAKERS
OF ZHINDI, SWAHILI, PORTUGUESE AND OTHER LANGUAGES (PERHAPS EVEN
ITALIAN) TO NOTE AND FOLLOW SUCH A PRECEDENT. AT LEAST IN CASE
OF ARABIC, THERE ARE 19 COUNTRIES FOR WHICH IT IS THE OFFICIAL
LANGUAGE.

3. FACT THAT GERMANS NOW SEEK TRANSLATION ONLY OF CERTAIN UN
DOCUMENTS WILL NOT PREVENT THEM FROM DEMANDING LATER THAT GERMAN
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BE MADE AN OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE. THEIR REQUEST APPEARS

UNJUSTIFIED SINCE THEY HAVE HIGH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY AND STRONG TRANSLATION CAPACITY.

4. OF PERHAPS DECISIVE NOTE, WE FIND LITTLE SYMPATHY AMONG OTHER MEMBERS FOR THIS PROPOSAL. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SCANDANAVIAN COUNTRIES, AMB. SCHAUFLELE FOUND STRONG AND SOMETIMES ADAMANT OPPOSITION. EVEN IN EC, WHERE FRG INFLUENCE MUCH GREATER PROPORTIONATELY THAN IN UN, GERMAN IS NOT USED AS WRITTEN LANGUAGES.

5. ADMITTEDLY IT IS NOT EASY TO MODIFY OUR POSITION CONTAINED REFTEL C. HOWEVER I BELIEVE IT IS CREDITABLE TO GO TO FRG AND AUSTRIA TO POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE FOUND LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR THEIR PROPOSAL AND THAT USG, CONSISTENT WITH ITS PAST POLICY, IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT ADDITIONAL BURDEN TO UN BUDGET AND ALREADY OVERLOADED UN CONFERENCE SERVICE FACILITIES. WE SHOULD URGE THEM EITHER TO WITHDRAW ITEM OR, IN EFFECT, DEFER IT BY NOT RAISING QUESTION OR PRESENTING RESOLUTION.
SCHAUFLELE

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